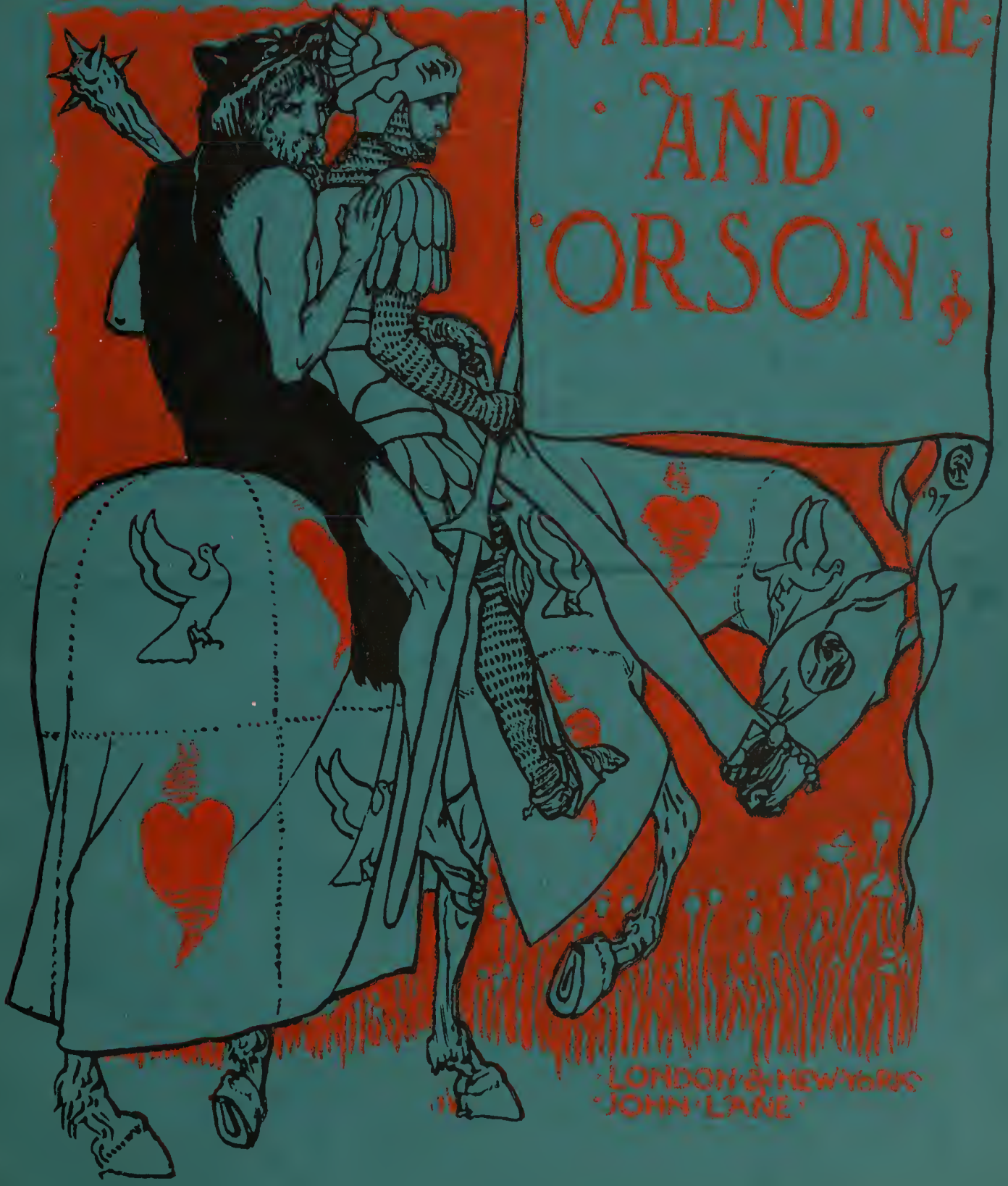
WALTER CRANE'S PICTURE BOOKS: RE-ISSUE

VALENTINE AND ORSON



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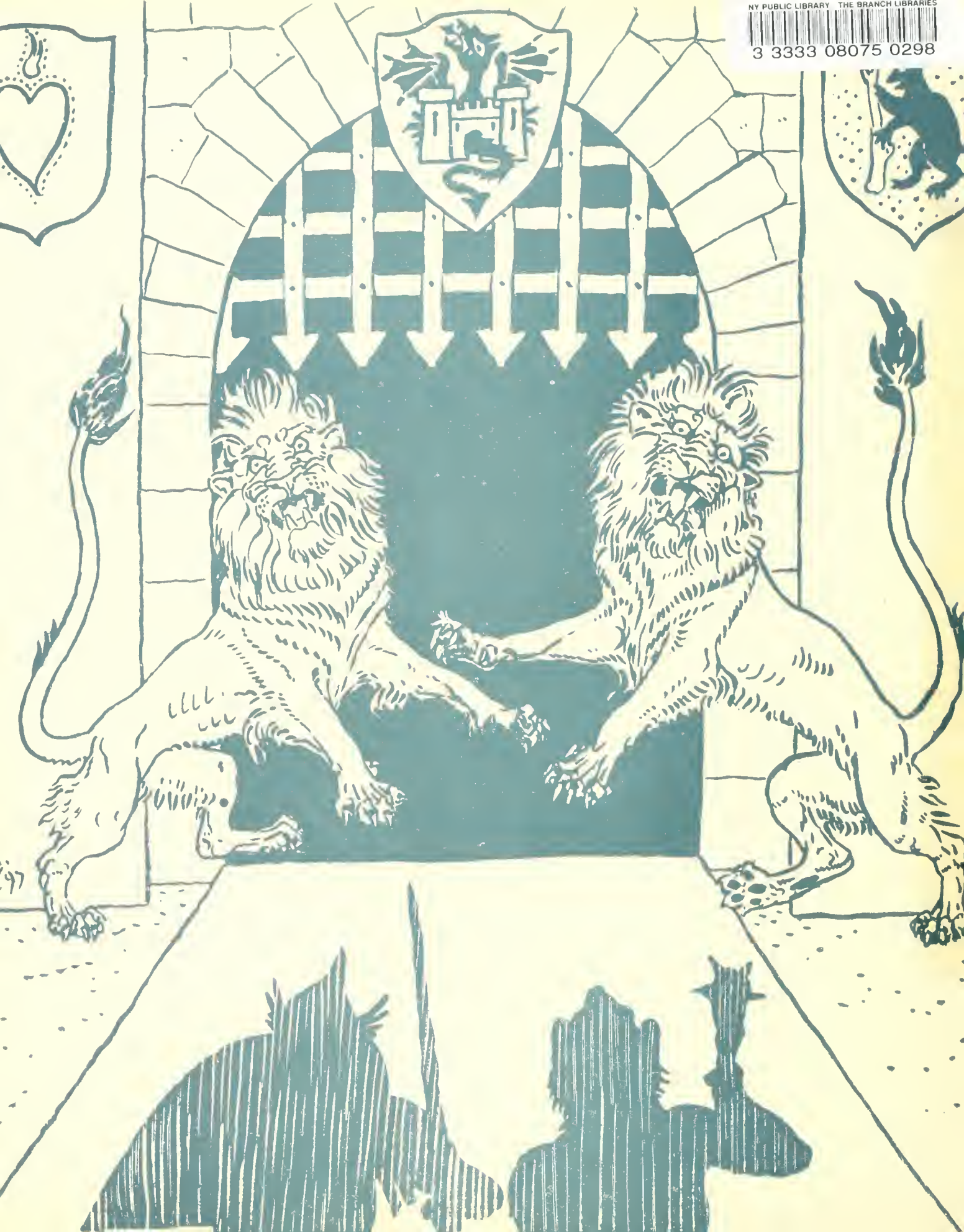

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ONCE on a time an Emperor, a man of might and fame,
Married a wife, and fair was she, and Bellisant her name;
And fair and happy were their lives, until an evil man
(He was the High Priest of the Court) an evil tale began,
Of how the lady was not true unto her husband dear:
The Emperor believed the tale, and rose up in great fear,
And drove poor Bellisant away; in haste and dire mischance
She took her way to Pepin's Court (her brother, King of France).

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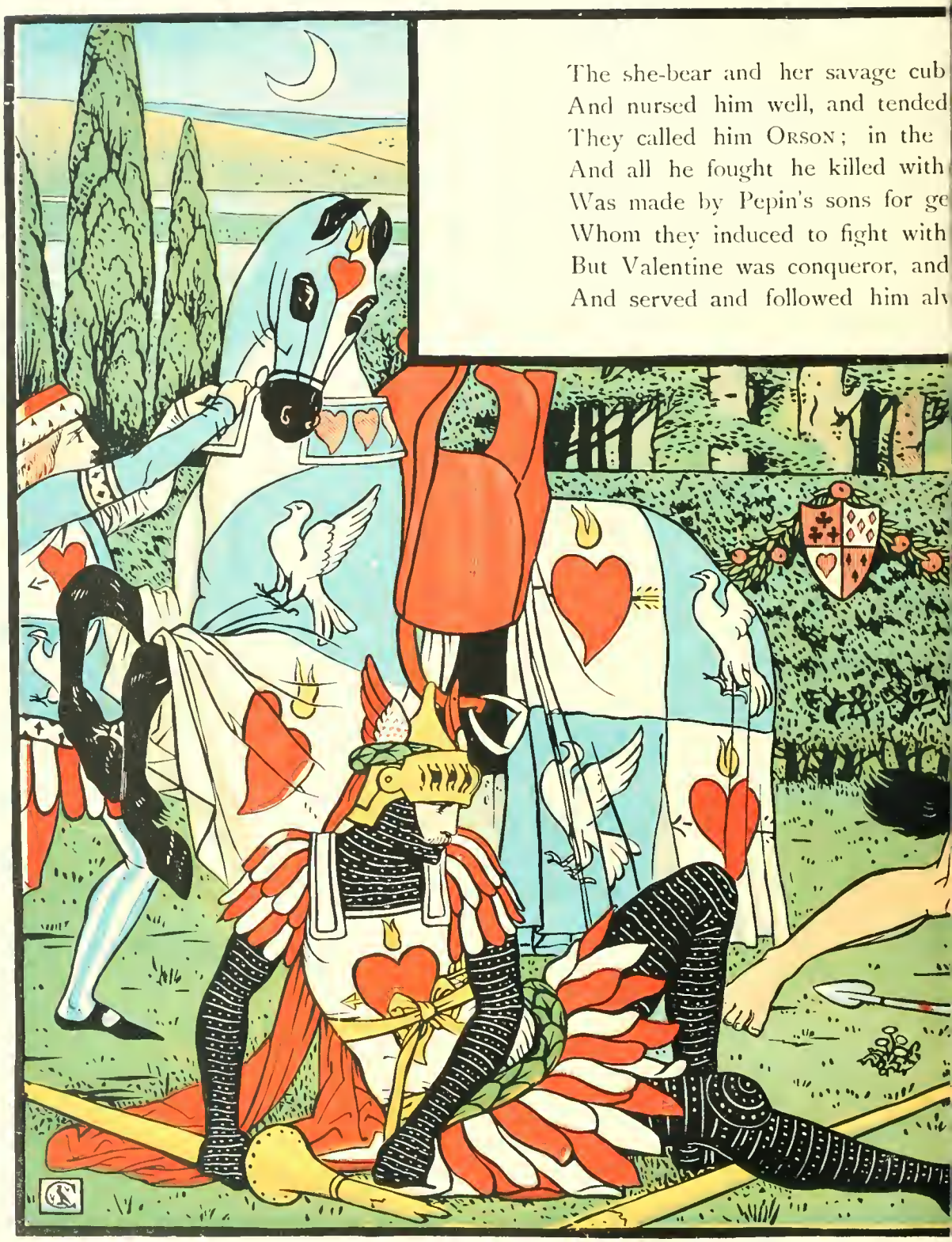
And as she fled, weighed down by grief and sense of cruel scorn,
Lo, in the forest two fair sons to Bellisant were born;
But while her servant went to buy some food, a great she-bear
Came up, and carried off one child unto her distant lair.
Poor Bellisant ran after her, with many a sigh and moan;
In vain,—and when she turned again, the other child was gone!

Now, Pepin chanced that very day to hunt with all his train
In that same wood, and found the child ere she came back again;
And took him home, and brought him up, and gave him all things fine—
Apparel, horses, and a name — so he was VALENTINE.
And brave and fair he grew,—King Pepin's daughter loved him well;
The sons were jealous. Now will I his brother's story tell.



The she-bear and her savage cub
And nursed him well, and tended
They called him Orson; in the
And all he fought he killed with
Was made by Pepin's sons for ge
Whom they induced to fight with
But Valentine was conqueror, and
And served and followed him alv

hey saved the child alive,
im,—well did he grow and thrive.
ods he lived, a strong wild man,
se; and so a wicked plan
ng rid of Valentine,
m, by flattering words and fine.
rson owned his might,
; and they were squire and knight.

Now, in that land there dwelt a man, the Green Knight he was called,
Who by his strength and magic arts a lady fair enthralled,
And kept in prison dark and strong, and none could set her free;
Not even Valentine prevailed, with all his bravery,

But Orson threw the Green Knight down, and bound him with a chain,
And set the lady free; both brothers then start off to gain
The Green Knight's castle-gates,—two roaring lions kept guard there,
But down they crouched when they beheld the brothers void of fear.

And there within the castle hall they saw a head of brass
That uttered marvels,—of their birth, and how it came to pass;
How in a convent lonely was their mother Bellisant;
How the King and Queen of France were their uncle and their aunt;
How the High Priest had confessed his lies, with many tears and groans;
How the Emperor, their father, was in search of wife and sons.
So the lost were found, the wrong made right, by all good rule and line;
They married well, and lived long years—ORSON and VALENTINE

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CHILDREN'S ROOM

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